



# How to Sample Waste/Compost

**Liquid samples.** Submit a representative sample in a one-pint clean, plastic (NO GLASS) bottle. A water or soda bottle will work. Leave 2" inches of headspace in the bottle to allow for sample expansion.

**Solid samples.** Collect solid samples by subsampling from 10 locations within the pile. Mix the solid samples together to get a composite sample. Submit ~1 quart of material in a clean, sealable plastic bag, such as a Ziploc bag.

Keep samples cool. If they are stored for more than one day, they should be refrigerated.



## Tips

- Fill out the waste sample information form as completely as possible.
- Specify the type of waste being submitted using the correct **waste code** and the correct **application method** as this will determine your estimate of available nutrients.

The standard waste analysis includes nitrogen, phosphorus, potassium, calcium, magnesium, sulfur, iron, zinc, manganese, copper, boron, aluminum and sodium.

Composted samples are also analyzed for EC, pH, and C:N ratio. Liquid samples are also analyzed for pH.

### Additional tests:

Molybdenum:	\$2
Nitrogen breakout: NO <sub>3</sub> -N: NH <sub>4</sub> -N:	\$10
Calcium Carbonate Equivalent (%):	\$10
Heavy Metals (As, Se, Pb, Cd, Cr, Ni):	\$20

**Fees:** \$8 per sample for N.C. growers

(\$25 for out-of-state; \$12 for N.C. researchers).

**Turnaround time:** 5-10 days from receipt.

**Send samples to:** NCDA&CS Agronomic Services-Waste Lab

### *Mailing address:*

1040 Mail Service Center, Raleigh, NC 27699

### *Physical Address:*

4300 Reedy Creek Rd, Raleigh, NC 27607

Phone: (919) 733 2655